

Serenity Group



The Woodlands

Group Conscience Meeting Agenda Monday, October 17th, 2022 ~ 7:10-7:50

Meeting Opens – 7:10 PM with Welcome and Serenity Prayer

Review of Minutes: Copies available for review, both paper and on www.serenitywoodlands.com and on the current Newsletter.

Kristi made a motion to accept the minutes, Greg seconded the motion.

Group Reports: GSR limit to 5 minutes, others limit to 2 minutes, please

GSR: I went to the SWRASSA Convention in Tulsa last weekend. I could spend an hour telling you all the fun stuff I learned. I appreciate so much the opportunity to go. What I heard from our regional trustee, the main thing was an encouragement to make our group strong. That would help AA as a whole. I thought it was interesting, he was talking about the general service board, like we don't have alcoholics in charge of our money. It's a non alcoholic trustee that is the finance guy. So they had this happen where because of covid they had access funds being sent to GSO and we are talking a whole lot of money. And the non alcoholics in the group were like "this is great, we're getting lots of money" and the trustee said this is horrible because our groups are not using the money they would typically be using they are sending access funds to us. I wouldn't have thought about it that way, he said our groups use that money to carry the message. I just thought it was an interesting way to look at it, that non-alcoholics look at this differently. Where you would think a lot of money coming in would be awesome. Also our service structure is an upside down triangle, the groups are at the top, that's where stuff starts. His encouragement was to make our groups as strong as possible, so we can have these doors open and helping the still suffering alcoholic. There was a trustee that was a non alcoholic and she was talking about how her brother found our rooms and she was just talking about the difference. She was talking about If a drunk stumbled into something they were having, some kind of a meeting they were having saying he was drunk and needed help she said we would call the police. You know and you come to AA and we open our arms and welcome this person in. I just thought it was interesting hearing from her and how her brother found the rooms and she was so grateful. I'm waiting for the conference report. I will have that here, I'm willing to talk more about things, but I know I have limited time here. It was a great experience and it was all about service. Went to District yesterday. There is a workshop on Saturday about 'What is an informed Group Conscience', I was encouraged to come and bring people with me. I am planning to go if anyone wants a ride I'm willing to drive. And I think Jessica has it on our website. I also took a flyer for Casey's workshop on Sunday and shared that at District yesterday.

Treasurer's report: I'll give you the highlights from the September collections. Total basket collections was \$6,740.00. \$5769 in cash and \$971 in square. 85% was paid out to SMCAF for room rental, \$5729. That left us \$1,011 for distribution. Of that \$1,011 we do have some restricted fund, sorry we put \$150 into our literature fund and once I did all of the disbursements we have a remaining balance for distribution based on our percentages of \$311. Let me just tell you what's highlighted in yellow, I'm sorry for those online you probably don't see this. There was a reimbursement of \$550 to Lizzy, \$350 was approved by GC for the SETA convention luncheon and there was a \$250 donation that was made by Sue I. That was paid out. I did pay entire literature invoice and I expressed my concern when I sent this over to the team that we are now in the whole in our literature fund of \$161.57. It does deserve some discussion as how we are going to approach our literature donations. Obviously at this point, all purchases are going to need to be approved through you or myself. I'm not sure how we want to work that. I also recommend that



Serenity Group **The Woodlands**

while the group is putting \$150 into the literature fund at least for the short term we up that to \$300 to replenish the literature fund before the disbursements. We had red can collections of \$400 which is literature and we had literature sales of \$142. That is about 10 books. There was \$338 collected for the green can for the correctional facilities literature. I think that's it for the highlights. I just wanted to put that out there for how to address future literature purchasing. We went for a long time that we had a large number of restricted funds, the last two invoices I've gotten were over a thousand dollars a piece. A lot of books were ordered, a lot of chips were ordered, the big print books were ordered. There was a lot of things we needed but that's the current situation, that's my only concern currently about the report is the literature collections.

Scott: Do we need to discuss anything further

Greg: Can I make a motion now as the treasurer to increase Serenity's donation to the literature to \$300 per month before disbursements until we catch back up whether that's for 2 months, 3 months, 4 months.

I make a motion that we increase our giving to the literature fund as Serenity Group from \$150 to \$300 for the short term and then when we are ready to bring it back down we can bring it back down.

Casey: What happens if we don't increase it?

Greg: Then we have to be very, very cognizant of what we are ordering. I'm assuming we should be in stock on everything right now.

Scott: Can I get a second.

Ron: I second the motion

Casey: If we don't pass this motion that was seconded, what would then happen? What's the downside of not increasing this by 50%?

Greg: My issue is that it's us putting \$150 into the fund, it's people paying for the literature. Literature sales was only \$142.

Scott: That's only 10 books.

Greg: We keep replenishing books. And \$142 was collected. And so I don't know what the answer to that is, other than monitoring what's being sold and how they are paying for it. If we don't increase it obviously we are going to have to be very stringent on what is being ordered, what is being purchased, we have to prioritize. Based on what I've seen over the last two orders, the literature order will probably be much less in the next couple of months based on the amount we currently have in stock.

Doug: Fluctuating in literature is just a normal thing, it's just the way it goes. Controlling the income has always been a problem. It's voluntary, it's not locked up. I think it's a panic attack to want to change it. I've already heard twice that we have a big stock now because we spent all this money. I wouldn't worry about changing anything right now, just leaving it at \$150 and wait until next month and see.

Lizzy: Is Ginny still our rep right now? I just recommend, I know we are storing the books here now as opposed to keeping them and stocking them as needed. I was told when I got literature to keep them with me until they needed because books walk away if they are stored here.

Scott: I don't know if that's a great idea either.

Lizzy: What?

Scott: Someone will take a whole case



Serenity Group The Woodlands

Lizzy: That's what I'm saying. I'm just volunteering. If Ginny still wants to keep them here, I can store them if it was a storage thing for her and help replenish it and see if that helps keep books from disappearing. I understand that people might need them but that's just my suggestion.

Crystal: My observation is there are a couple of things going on. Whenever a person "hey your a newcomer, the club will buy you a book" or they don't replenish with funds out of their pocket. That happens quite a bit. It's not clear around the shelf area what the directions are once you have that envelope and you put money in it. And then making it clearer that they can be paid for online and there is something up there but it's not very clear, people are kind of confused and then they forget and then they walk away. The other thing is when Lizzy was doing the literature, we weren't going quite as fast, when things look like they are always replenished it looks like we have an endless store. But whenever we had a little bit less then people were a little more cognizant and were like I need to pay for this the club can't just give them away and they'll be replenished right away. I like what Lizzy was saying, I believe that I or somebody could make it more clear how the funds are to be collected and where they are supposed to go.

Charlie: Just like Lizzy was saying what we've done in the past makes them last a lot longer, don't store on site, they walk. We've always made this suggestion in the past, when money got tight we could always go to paper versions, hard backs are more expensive. And finally, point of order, we can't make fiscal changes, it has to be posted for 30 days.

Casey: I paid for two or three books and the envelopes with the cash just sat in that little sheet protector for weeks and weeks. I would just peek in to see, it was not being collected, then one day I looked in and it was gone. I don't know what that looks like, who collects that. If we are doing that on a regular routine basis. If we could have some kind of announcement like we do at the end, like we do with the coffee bar that coffee costs a dollar, maybe we could remind everyone that the books are not free that what they cost. A gentle reminder, kind of just an announcement if you will. I've never heard that from the service desk.

Kristi: So when this has happened before, when we were running low. The chairs were encouraged to make that announcement and ask for red can donations. Because people may want to do that, maybe they don't know someone to buy a book for but they may put some money. Also, the envelopes, my understanding is they are supposed to put the money in but that goes in the red can it doesn't stay in that. It's not clear.

Scott: Or the safe. So we are talking about solutions here, the motion was to raise the disbursement to the literature fund. Back to Charlie's point we would have to post it for 30 days anyways. We should probably just post it for 30 days and vote on it next Group Conscience. We can discuss it further at that time.

Suzanne: I don't know where the money for the literature goes. I've been here for 6 months and I still don't know.

Scott: I think that there is probably some work that could be done there. Ways to educate people. We will talk about that as well when we vote on it.

Charlie: We are out of desire chips, so whoever is doing literature. We are out of desire chips again.

Scott: I'll post it on the board and the website as well. That will be our 30 day notice. Did we pass the treasurer's report?

Lizzy makes a motion to pass the treasurer's report, Kristi seconded the motion.

Serenity Group



The Woodlands

Intergroup report: I don't have anything to report, we have a meeting on Thursday so next Group Conscience I will have stuff to report.

Casey: The holiday celebration for Intergroup, I think there is a flyer circulating. Maybe Lizzy can share more with us next time.

Lizzy: The money that was passed for the SETA convention, we did 55 boxed lunches from Jimmy John's. They were so appreciative and they were so happy, ranted and raved about our group and how wonderful it was. Thank you guys for allotting that money.

Grapevine report: I don't have anything from GSO or Area other than the fact that a long time servant, Darrell, was the past district GVR for two years and was elected to be the chairman of the GVR committee at the Area level.

PI report: No Report

SOT report:

Ron: Kimberely is out of town for two weeks, I'm just covering. Some of the things we will be voting on in the online community fairly soon is to eliminate a couple more meetings where we can't get chair people. That is specifically the Noon meetings during the week and possibly the Sunday 10:00am. That vote has not occurred yet, we've had a discussion meeting to give it 30 days for people to think about it. Probably next meeting we will confirm that is a change so we'll have to update the website.

Literature report: No Report

Old Business:

****Speaker workshop Update***

Casey: I'm sorry everyone, I did not print out enough of these flyers. Just some breakdowns, these are projections, I'm so excited about the workshop. I'm really turned up about it, it's not Casey's workshop, it is the Serenity Group of The Woodlands is sponsoring this workshop. I get the honor and privilege to serve in the capacity as facilitator. If you guys really want it, just email me and I'll send it to you. It's an event projection, right now I have 25 people already registered, I'm projecting 30-35 people, maybe over but I'm going with those that have already registered. The actual handout, I will have a powerpoint presentation, I'll bring my own projector and screen because the presentation itself is about 28 pages and it's cost prohibitive to print that for 30 people. What I am going to print out, there are handouts, 3 sheets of paper for each person and my breakout for that was in the printing. If I printed \$3 for 30 and not everyone is going to do this so I don't want to overprint but I'm looking at printing cost even if I got the ink for my laser jet at home, inkjets for my own printer are about \$65 or \$70 dollars, just to do that printing. That's why I went with the powerpoint presentation, so we don't have to worry about hardcopy, old school. However, those that have registered will get the presentation, I will send them a soft copy. Those who want the actual substance of the workshop that is available to them if they are registered. I asked people to register because I want to supply food and that gives me a headcount. If I go with a headcount of 30-35 I'm looking at, the numbers are broken down. If someone wants the sheet, you can pass the sheet out. I'm going to have Subway cater it, 2 trays serves about 16 people, that's \$5.71, that is really low

Serenity Group The Woodlands

balling it. And two wrap trays at \$6.25 per person that serves 18. That will bring me up to about 30 people, not everyone is going to eat. There are people with dietary restrictions but I don't want to have too much food and then one cookie platter and drinks. So my total is about \$353.66 and that includes everything. So that's the breakdown in terms of cost, what I will probably do is write a check for this and if the group wants to vote and reimburse me that is comfortable. I did kind of talk with Charlie about this side bar. So you guys help me out if I am going about this procedurally incorrect, but I wanted to submit this to the group before I just stepped out and did this just unilaterally.

Scott: We said there would be expenses when we voted on it, right? From a minute's perspective.

Kristi: I don't think we got that far

Scott: I guess what we can do is vote on it next time. Like at the next GC or we could do it now.

Casey: We need to do it now because the event is Sunday, before the next GC.

Casey: Casey makes a motion that the group pass the projected of \$366 for the Speakers Workshop
Greg seconds the motion

Scott: Does anyone have any questions or want to discuss further? Does anyone have questions for Casey or want to talk about it? Okay, let's go ahead and vote.

MOTION : PASSES

Scott: Do you have a speaker night update, Casey?

Casey: Yes, I do. I spoke with Doug, my commitment is ending in December when we vote. I am still taking speakers through January and I don't know if I'm supposed to be doing that because the next person who will be coming on will be coming on in December.

Scott: I don't know if it's a formal position?

Doug: It is, there is a job description

Casey: So, I'm rotating out in December

Ron: You just hand that off to whomever's booked

Charlie: You get the next level up, whatever level up is open

Casey: So that is not a concern? Continue to sign people up, so in December when we vote whoever is elected to that position.

Casey: In terms of the speaker meeting, Ron is doing the audio for the speaker meeting. I'm understanding that he is not the lead person, he is really the contingency plan. Crystal has volunteered to do the audio and Ron would in her absence come on board. I see Crystal shaking her head yes and Ron nodding his head no. Can we bring clarity to that, in terms of how that piece works because there are times when we don't have a mic. I just want to make sure we have a contingency plan for that.

Ron: The audio/visual equipment, it is described and posted on the website under the SOT chair. It has evolved over the past three years especially with the pandemic. From a speaker's meeting perspective. It was Casey, before it was John P., before that it was Jeannette, before that it was me and before that it was Kristi. We used to have an old amp that was mounted into the podium that worked and that thing stopped working. That's when we got the carry around amp. So it was just understood between the speaker night coordinator and myself and maybe a couple of other people, we just rotated that somebody would make sure to take the equipment home in fear of it being stolen. We would just hand it off the next week for Group Conscience or for whatever was needed. That's how it worked previously. I've been



Serenity Group The Woodlands

showing up, but I can't show up every week for this, it comes up for the birthday nights too. We do need some more, 2, 3 or 4 people. It's straightforward and simple. Crystal is great and has knowledge about it just with her zoom stuff and everything. If somebody is shown it one time, it's straight forward. So the reason this is really important is because, we just went through a whole conversation a couple of months ago about if we should have virtual birthday night and everything else. My feeling only is from an audio/visual perspective we need to make it as trouble free as possible when we do these things whether it's speaker night or...that's why we upgraded the speaker, remember the old speaker was crackling or if it's hybrid birthday night. We don't want technical issues to make it disruptive and create a perception that this thing bogs us down. This is very important, I'm glad it's on the table.

Scott: It's not a perception, last month was really bad.

Ron: But when it goes wrong it creates that perception like "why are we doing all this stuff". It doesn't have to go that way, we had a few wifi drops which nobody can predict. I will spend some time with Crystal to help with anything she needs. We need a couple more people to be able to cover this for Serenity. There is an even Wednesday, so I plan to bring the amp and hook that up. This is something we use all the time.

Scott: Let's take that to committee. Create a committee to address it.

Ron: An Ad Hoc kind of thing?

Scott: Yeah, Like finding people and taking it to the Club, trying to see if we can get a better function

Ron: Yeah, we've done that before, Charlie's helped

New Business:

****Candlelight Meeting***

Motion: To start a "Candle Light" open participation meeting to be scheduled every Friday night from 11:00pm - 12:00am. Casey M. will jump start as chair for the month of November thereafter volunteers may sign up on the meeting board to chair.

Scott: This is a schedule change so it would require a 30 day notice, I will put it on the board, we will discuss it and then vote on it.

Vicki: I'm concerned, I read the agenda. I just want to be clear, Casey you said you would do it for one month? Am I understanding, from when we start meetings in the past, is it the person who chooses to start it is ready to take care of it for six months. Is that still enforced?

Scott: We'll talk about it when we vote on it. Yes, Generally it's six months

Doug: Point of order, she made the motion she needs a second.

Scott: I was just reading this

Casey: If we are carrying it over for a month, then it wouldn't start in November, it would start in December.

Doug: Make a motion, get it seconded then you post it.

Serenity Group



The Woodlands

Scott: You're right, Casey go ahead and make your motion

Casey: I make a motion that we start a candlelight meeting, I'm thinking Friday ~ that's a bewitching hour for us alcoholics. I'm thinking Friday's from 11:00pm - 12:00am.

Ron: I second it.

Scott: Vicki go ahead and discuss it further, my apologies.

Vicki: There's nothing else to say, I'm asking if anyone else remembers. As far as I know, when somebody says they want to start a new meeting it's their baby for six months. When Casey wrote that she just wanted to do it for one month, I didn't understand how that would work.

Casey: Thank you for that correction, I am amenable to doing that.

Scott: Any other discussions to all that. We'll post it then vote on it next month.

New Business Cont.

****Speaker Meeting***

Scott: Let's move on, there is a motion. Who made this motion?

To set aside one of the three speaker nights in the month for two 20-25 minutes speakers. This will give the new member an opportunity to learn and grow behind the speaker podium.

Casey: Still on the speaker night. I am making a motion or asking the group to consider. Sometimes it depends on the length of the month; speaker night can be four Saturday nights or three Saturday nights, but one of those three or four nights we have speakers where we have two 25 minute speakers instead of one. Reserve that specifically for newcomers, people who have less than 3 years of sobriety or 3-5 years. It is really challenging for newcomers, they want to learn how to speak we want them to feel comfortable at the podium, they are really challenged to carry a meeting for 55 minutes. That is the empathic of that, that's where my heart is at.

Scott: I'm not sure that requires a motion because we already voted to have the speaker meeting. As speaker chair you are welcome to formulate the meeting any way you like.

Doug: Yeah, it's up to the person chairing that meeting however they want to

Vicki: I'm just curious. I think it makes sense that it not be an issue for group conscience. I think it's up to each person who is chairing. For sure Casey, do it whatever way you want to do it. But whoever takes it on next wouldn't it be there way to do it?

Scott: Yes, they can do it however they like

Vicki: That's what we do with the 12 & 12 meetings. Just an idea

Charlie: The first monday of the month be newcomer chairing or whatever

Scott: You have autonomy

Casey: Thank you for the clarification, I withdraw that motion.

Serenity Group



The Woodlands

New Business Cont:

**Wednesday 8:00pm Meeting*

Scott: Kristi, did you have a motion?

Kristi: Yes. The Wednesday night 8:00, we tried to have a young peoples meeting and it didn't work out, we changed it. It's back to a closed women's and closed men's. I am an 8:00 o'clock person but I have another commitment on Wednesday nights. I have heard from Suzi, you may attend that. I have had women come up to me that show up thinking it's a women's meeting and there are no women here. So I would like to make a motion that we make that an open discussion meeting, I did attend during covid we just didn't have a lot of people. We did our own little group conscience at the meeting if we were going to combine it. Like I say, I don't attend that one.

Ron: Which day and time is it

Kristi: Wednesday at 8:00pm

Scott: We voted to change that to a YPAA meeting but we didn't change it after that

Kristi: It has been a closed men's and a closed women's

Scott: Okay, but we didn't change the Wednesday meeting, we just changed it to the Saturday meeting

Kristi: We played around with it, I really want a person looking for a specific meeting to find that meeting. Like we say. But when someone is looking for a women's meeting and we say we have it and we don't really. I think this has gone on for many years, this is not the first time but it's just not working. I make a motion that we make the Wednesday night 8:00 an open discussion meeting.

Doug: Seconds the motion

Suzanne: On the handouts on Wednesday night at 8:00pm says Women / Men. It's very confusing, there's just not enough women.

Scott: Does anyone have anything else to add

Doug: Post for 30 days

New Business Cont.

**Elections*

Scott: Yes, we have a lot of postings. We have elections in November, I thought it was December.

Jessica: I thought December was pushing it.

Crystal: Last year it was several months ahead of time

Scott: We can still do it next month, if people want to do that, we'll get to the business if we can. Okay, so we'll do December.

Vicki: Do we know what the positions are that are open?

Serenity Group



The Woodlands

Scott: They are all open, so that makes it easy

Charlie: Just because terms are ending does not mean you have to leave. The number one thing is you have to start planning for your placement from day one. From day one you start finding your replacement. That's the nature of service work. We are a big happy family, you are always trying to find your replacement. Before you start thinking about role how are you going to fill your spot. Maybe you be a chair for another year?

Scott: No

Doug: No, it keeps rotating out like it's supposed to

Charlie: I love Ginny, I love Ginny to death, but they changed to term limits to one year without a 30 day thing. We are a huge club, term limits for 6 months for a reason. One year. He didn't gray hair when he took this job.

Casey: For the speaking meeting, I saw the list of positions that are open but didn't see the speaker chair.

Doug: Motion to close

Update:

Ron: So there is a memorial service for James on Wednesday at 2:00. I've been the family and close friends to coordinate that as I was pretty close with James. They came back and asked, they talked to their pastor and asked if they could just hold the service here. We will open it up in the usual way and the pastor will officiate. I reached out to John, didn't know he was cruising somewhere in the Bahamas. I called Jeff M. because he is President of the Club, checked with Charlie and others and they said it was fine on behalf of the Club. Just wanted to let everyone know, we went through the channels.

Doug: Motion to close

Ron: Seconded

Close of meeting:

Motion to close meeting made by Doug, seconded by Ron. Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer at 7:51 PM